

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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SUBJECT: REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADER SPEAKS AT
ISTANBUL MASS RALLY

REF: ISTANBUL 2034

SUMMARY: SPEAKING BEFORE CAPACITY CROWD ON JUN 27 IN
ISTANBUL'S TAKSIM SQUARE, REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP)
LEADER ECEVIT ACCUSED NATIONALIST FRONT GOVT. OF SEEKING
DESTROY TURKISH DEMOCRACY AT HOME WHILE BOWING TO US PRESSURES
ON CYPRUS AND ARMS EMBARGO. TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES AND
RPP-SELF-DISCIPLINE PREVENTED ANY OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE.
END SUMMARY

1. REPLUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) LEADER BULENT ECEVIT,
JUN 27 ADDRESSING CROWD OF MORE THAN 50,000 IN ISTANBUL'S
TAKSIM SQUARE, ACCUSED NATIONALIST FRONT GOVT. OF CREATING
INTERNAL DISCORD AND SHOWING WEAKNESS UNDER US PRESSURES OVER
FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. THEME OF FOREIGN POLICY REMARKS WAS
THAT AS LONG A RPP COALITION WAS IN POWER, TURKEY HAD TAKEN
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NECESSARY STEPS TO DEFEND ITS ACTIONS IN FACE OF CRITICISM, AND

THROUGH FIRM STAND HAD MAINTAINED FLOW OF US MILITARY AID DESPITE CUT-OFF LEGISLATION. (DETAILS AND ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN POLICY PORTION REPORTED SEPTEL BY EMB. ANKARA).

2. IN RESPONSE TO NATIONALIST FRONT'S CALL FOR NON-PARTISAN QTE NATIONAL END QTE FOREIGN POLICY, ECEVIT SAID THAT DEMIREL GOVT. COULD EXPECT NO COOPERATION FROM THE OPPOSITION AS LONG AS IT EXPLOITED AND INFLAMED DOMESTIC CONFRONTATIONS. ECEVIT ACCUSED THOSE IN POWER OF TRYING TO QTE DESTROY THE STATE END QTE. SPECIFICALLY, HE CHARGED THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT PARTY (NMP) WITH TRYING TO EXPLOIT SECTARIAN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN ANATOLIA AND DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN QTE TURKS END QTE AND KURDS; THE JUSTICE PARTY OF STIRRING UP VIOLENCE IN GEREDE AND TRYING TO SHIFT BLAME TO NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP); AND THE GOVERNMENT COLLECTIVELY OF QTE FASCIST END QTE PROVOCATION AGAINST THE LEFT IN ORDER TO PROVOKE THE RIGHT-WING INTERVENTION BY ARMED FORCES. HE WARNED THAT DANGER OF THESE TACTICS IS THAT IF ONE DAY THERE SHOULD BE REAL THREAT FROM THE EXTREME LEFT, NO ONE WOULD TAKE IT SERIOUSLY (THINKING THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF THE QTE FASCISTS END QTE).

3. TURNING TO MEANS OF ATTAINING HEALTHY DEMOCRACY UNDER SUCH A GOVERNMENT, ECEVIT STIPULATED THREE CONDITIONS QTE (A) THE PEOPLE MUST CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY WILL NOT GIVE IN TO SUCH PRESSURES; (B) ALL INSTITUTIONS, WHETHER OR NOT POLITICAL, SHOULD SHOW THE NECESSARY COURAGE TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND (C) PUBLIC SERVANTS MUST BE MASTERS OF THE STATE KNOWING THAT WHILE GOVERNMENTS CHANGE THEY ARE PERMANENT END QTE. HE SAID THE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS COURAGE MAY BE TRANSFER TO ANOTHER JOB OR QTE EXILE END QTE TO REMOTE CORNER OF THE COUNTRY, UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS, BUT THAT ONCE THE RPP COMES TO POWER ANY INJUSTICES SUFFERED BY THESE CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD BE CORRECTED.

4. ECEVIT COUPLED THIS CALL TO SELF-SACRIFICE WITH WARNING THAT QTE THOSE WHO VIEWED THE HIGH WAGES OBTAINED LAST YEAR BY WORKERS AND PEASANTS AS EXCESSIVE; THOSE WHO CONSIDERED THE PEOPLE NOTHING BUT A HERD; THOSE WHO CUT OFF AID TO CITIES WITH RPP MAYORS, THOSE WHO WANTED TO PLANT THEIR BLOODY SS FORCES AMONG THE HONEST POLICE...END QTE AND SIMILAR GROUPS WHICH HAD WORKED AGAINST QTE THE PEOPLE END QTE WOULD FIND THE RPP AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QTE PEOPLE'S HANDS ON THEIR COLLARS END QTE.

5. COMMENT: ECEVIT'S ATTACK ON THE NATIONALIST FRONT IS CERTAINLY HIS MOST AGGRESSIVE TO DATE. ALTHOUGH ON OTHER OCCASIONS HE HAS MADE SEPARATELY MOST OF THE POINTS CONTAINED IN THIS SPEECH, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HE HAS NEVER BEFORE COME SO CLOSE TO RABBLE ROUSING, TO INCITING SPECIFIC GROUPS, INCLUDING CIVIL SERVANTS, TO RESIST THE GOVERNMENT, OR TO THREATENING HIS OPPONENTS OPENLY WITH

REPRISALS WHEN THE RPP COMES TO POWER. THANKS TO TIGHT SECURITY
MEASURES AND DISCIPLINE AMONG THE CROWD, THE MEETING PASSED
WITHOUT INCIDENT, DESPITE THE INFLAMMATORY NATURE OF ECEVIT'S
REMARKS.
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